

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7033

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 8162

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, PE

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC NOTES ON JOAQUIN DIAZ DE VIVAR

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6488

1. IN VIEW OF SPECULATION THAT JOAQUIN DIAZ DE VIVAR MAY BECOME NEW ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE FOLLOWING NOTES RELATING TO HIS EIGHTEEN MONTHS' SERVICE AS AMBASSADOR TO LIMA MAY BE OF INTEREST TO SUPPLEMENT AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES BIOGRAPHIC REPORTING.

2. DIAZ DE VIVAR IS A LOYAL PERONISTA OF THE CONSERVATIVE WING. HE IS ARDENTLY ANTI-COMMUNIST. AT THE DEATH OF JUAN PERON HE CONDUCTED A PRESS CONFERENCE PRAISING THE FALLEN LEADER AND EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE THAT PERONISMO WOULD CONTINUE ITS HISTORIC MARCH. HE HAS LITTLE REGARD FOR EX-PRESIDENT CAMPORA WHOM HE DESCRIBES IN PRIVATE CONVERSTAION AS A "SMALL-TOWN DENTIST" WHO IS SOFT ON COMMUNISM. HE BLAMES CAMORA FOR SOME OF ARGENTINA'S PRESENT PROBLEMS AND PARTICULARLY FOR RELEASING TERRORISTS DURING HIS SHORT TERM AS PRESIDENT.

3. DIAZ DE VIVAR HAS LONG-TERM PROBLEM IN LIMA OVER A DIPLOMATIC ASYLUM CASE. APRISTA LEADER JUAN ENCISO TORRES SOUGHT AND WAS GRANTED ASYLUM AT THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN FEBRUARY 1975 AFTER GOP BLAMED RIOTS IN LIMA ON APRA. THE GOP PRESSURED

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FOR SURRENDER OF ENCISO TORRES BUT THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR

STOOD HIS GROUND AND FINALLY ARRANGED HIS SAFE PASSAGE OUT OF PERU IN SEPTEMBER AFTER THE FALL OF VELASCO. THE LONG ASYLUM WAS WEARING FOR DIAZ DE VIVAR AND EMBARRASSING FOR HIS GOVERNMENT.

4. DIAZ DE VIVAR IS A DIPLOMAT IN THE OLD SCHOOL TRADITION. HE APPEARS TO BE IN HIS LATE SIXTIES, LARGE-BONED, SOMEWHAT STOUT. HE IS A STUDENT OF DIPLOMATIC HISTORY AND CONSIDERS HIMSELF A EXPERT ON U.S. HISTORY. ALEXANDER HAMILTON IS A PARTICULAR FAVORITE. NOTWITHSTANDING A HARELIG, WHICH MAKES HIM SOMWHAT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, DIAZ DE VIVAR ENJOYS PONTIFICATING. HE CAN TRACE HIS LINEAGE BACK FORSEVERAL CONTURIES, AND CLAIMS TO BE A DESCENDANT OF EL CID. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT DIAZ DE VIVAR HAS LARGE LAND HOLDINGS IN NORTHERN ARGENTINA.

5. MRS. DIAZ DE VIVAR IS AN OUTGOING AND ARTICULATE WOMAN. SHE AND DIAZ DE VIVAR RECENTLY CELEBRATED THEIR 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY HERE IN LIMA. DIAZ DE VIVAR HAS BEEN CLOSE TO THE URUGUAYAN, CHILEAN AND BRAZILIAN AMBASSADORS AND IS FRIENDLY TO THE US EMBASSY. MRS. DIAZ DE VIVAR HAS TOLD MRS. DEAN THAT HER HUSBAND WOULD BE WILLING TO SERVE AS FOREIGNMINISTER IF NAMED, BUT THAT THERE ARE "MANY OTHER CANDIDATES". SHE ADDED THAT IN ANY CASE THEY EXPECT TO LEAVE PERU BY THE END OF THE YEAR, HAVING SERVED HERE THE YEAR AND ONE-HALF THEY HAD ORIGINALLY COMMITTED TO. THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO ARGENTINA, THEIR FAMILY AND THEIR HACIENDA AND (WE BELIEVE) TO THE POLITICAL FRAY.
DEAN

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